

been rated junk. Vendors as lowly as toilet paper suppliers said, "No more. We are not dealing with Philadelphia."

They had lost 30 percent of their tax base. Taxes had gone up 19 times over the last 11 years. Yet today, Madam Speaker, the city enjoys a \$29 million surplus. They have investment-grade bonds. For the first time since World War II, they have had a tax cut.

How did they do it? One, they created an entrepreneurial environment where in government was to view customers as king, and in this case, the taxpayer was to be king. Two, they were to spend government dollars as if they were their own.

Madam Speaker, if Philadelphia can do that, I think America and the Federal Government can do that.

MEDICARE: NO COMMON SENSE IN CONGRESS

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, the American people are gradually learning the truth about the Republican Medicare program. As the Wall Street Journal reported 3 days ago, raising Medicare premiums and copayments on seniors is becoming a likely possibility.

Republicans are finding that forcing seniors into HMO's may not provide the short-term cost savings they were hoping for, but the Democrats knew all along that the health care reform and Medicare reform should not be treated as a short-term budget exercise.

As you will recall, Madam Speaker, the Republicans only started talking about Medicare after their Contract With America rhetoric forced them to, by accident. Then they discovered the impending crisis in medical care, which President Clinton talked about all last year.

Madam Speaker, cutting \$270 billion is not the way to save Medicare. It is becoming obvious to seniors that including \$270 billion in cuts to their benefits and \$245 billion in tax cuts in the same budget bill is poor public policy and really a raw deal. This Republican majority Congress wants to balance our budget on the backs of seniors, and today they are cutting programs for our youth.

This Congress wants to cut our oldest and youngest, forsake our elders and cut our future. To paraphrase my friend from Ohio, "Beam me up." There is no common sense here in Congress.

REPUBLICANS ARE SAVING MEDICARE

(Mr. TORKILDSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TORKILDSEN. Madam Speaker, it is unanimous. The President and his trustees agree, and both parties in both

Houses agree: Medicare is going broke. If the Congress chooses to do nothing, the status quo will destroy the Medicare system. But we can fight to improve the system, Madam Speaker, so that current and future generations will have access to health care.

This past week, I visited several senior centers in my district. The Americans I spoke with understood that change in the current system is necessary. Our seniors are trapped in a system designed for the 1960's, not the 1990's and beyond.

Madam Speaker, the facts are straightforward. Under the House-passed budget, spending on Medicare will increase from \$4,800 per recipient now to over \$6,700 per recipient over the next 7 years. Doing nothing means Congress is abdicating its responsibility.

Madam Speaker, every person and every idea is needed to resolve the Medicare crisis. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join together. If Medicare goes broke in 2002, it is going to affect all of us, regardless of party affiliation or age. Let us work, preserve and protect Medicare.

APOLOGY DUE THE PEOPLE OF KENTUCKY AND TENNESSEE

(Mr. TANNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, a while ago one of the Members who spoke here used the term "extremist, mean-spirited, and shameful." Let me tell my friends that one of the most extremist, mean-spirited, and shameful remarks occurred in an interview by a Member of this body the other day in the Journal Gazette when he said, "The only law they clearly established Koresh broke that I can see is that he had sex with a consenting minor," a little girl 10-year-old. "Do you send tanks and government troops into large sections of Kentucky and Tennessee, and other places where such things occur? Since he viewed he was married, which then comes to the polygamy question, in other words, we are sending tanks in to enforce polygamy laws."

By way of a strained explanation, he said, "I implied something I don't believe. It was a wrong choice of words."

May I say to the Speaker of this House, the people of Kentucky and Tennessee deserve an apology from someone who speaks for this body.

THE ISTOOK-MCINTOSH-EHRLICH AMENDMENT

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Madam Speaker, here is a little quiz. What do the following examples have in common: One, the National Council of Senior Citizens

received \$68 million from the Federal Government between 1993 and 1994. That is 96 percent of its operating budget. Between 1992 and 1994, the NCSC gave \$405,000 to 134 congressional candidates.

Two, the Child Welfare League of America received \$260,000 in Federal funding in 1 year. It then ran an ad in the Washington Times against the House welfare reform bill.

Three, the AFL-CIO in the 1993-94 year received more than \$2 million in Federal money. It operates "Stand Up," a program designed to defeat the 104th Congress' agenda, and runs a TV campaign targeting Members of Congress.

What do these examples have in common? A, your tax money was used; B, you had no say in which group received your money; C, these groups actively and aggressively lobbied Congress; D, all of the above.

Believe it or not, Madam Speaker, the answer is D. That is wrong and I urge that the Istook-McIntosh-Ehrlich grant reform amendment be passed.

STAMP OUT THE REPUBLICAN WAR ON WOMEN

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Madam Speaker, this August 26, we have this wonderful stamp coming out, celebrating women having had the right to vote for 75 years. In November 1996, you are going to watch women use that vote. They are also going to be using this stamp, I think, to try and stamp out the Republican war on women.

I think women are not only angry about the actions against them in this Congress, they are angry about the attitudes that the Republicans have had against them in this Congress as seen by the vote yesterday in the other body.

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That is all very, very sad, and it is very difficult today to celebrate the only victory, the only victory women have had this entire time, and that was saving a 25-year-old program started by Richard Nixon and George Bush that last time got two-thirds of this body and this time barely snuck through. That is outrageous.

Our foremothers would want us to fight back, and we will.

SUPPORT THE LABOR-HHS-EDUCATION BILL

(Mr. HOKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOKE. Madam Speaker, let us be clear about one thing. If you want to hurt your children, if you want to hurt your grandchildren, if you want to punish the future generations that have

not been born yet for this Nation, the best thing that you can do today is you can vote against the Labor-HHS appropriations bill.

Let me ask a simple question: Which is worse, eliminating some ineffective programs today while still funding important initiatives, or leaving our children a legacy in which the only thing the Government can afford to do is pay for entitlements and interest on the debt, if that?

This is a good bill. It deserves our support. It increases funding in important areas, like the National Institutes of Health. It eliminates funding in areas where it does not deserve to be funded. It consolidates a great deal of funding.

Please, support it.

SALUTE TO THE NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION AND PRESIDENT-ELECT LAWRENCE BOZÉ OF THE NBA

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning to salute Lawrence Bozé, newly elected president-elect of the National Bar Association, now holding its 75th year meeting in Baltimore, MD.

The National Bar Association, organized in 1920, is now celebrating its 75th year of service. It is an organization of lawyers serving African-Americans throughout this Nation. Mr. Bozé, a native Houstonian, has been a long-time activist in the Houston Lawyers' Association, the NBA, and the Houston community. He has used his legal training to enhance the lives of those least able to access our American system of justice. He has fought the legal fight against eliminating the 18th Congressional District.

As head of an organization, the NBA, that has led the effort to maintain equality, civil rights, and opportunity, I know that Mr. Bozé's administration will continue that service in an excellent manner.

It is my pleasure to salute the National Bar Association in its 75th year of service and Mr. Lawrence Bozé, the newly elected president-elect of the NBA.

WE MUST PRESERVE MEDICARE

(Mr. MILLER of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, the Medicare program is a very, very essential program we need to save in this country. It is very important in my congressional district in Florida, where I have more senior citizens than any other congressional district in the country. It is also important not only for the seniors but for the jobs in my area, the hospitals, the

nursing homes, the home health agencies. So it is very essential we preserve this very essential program, and it has to be a bipartisan effort.

The President speaks normally in a bipartisan fashion on Medicare, which is the way we should treat that. It is only when he gets into the partisan campaign reelection that he gets carried away on Medicare. But we start off with a bipartisan agreement that it is going broke. The President's own trustees, Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of HHS, the Secretary of the Treasury, they all said in their report on April 30 of this year, it is going broke in 7 years, and it starts running out of money next year.

Last night in the news the President is saying, according to headline news stories, that we need to look at the private sector. Great. We need to look at the private sector because the private sector health care costs also are not growing nearly as much as is happening in Medicare.

We must preserve Medicare.

THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA'S SENIORS

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, as many know, the Republicans seek to cut \$270 billion from the Medicare program, and the Republicans claim that these cuts will not hurt senior citizens.

But if health care costs continue to rise faster than the money budgeted for Medicare, then seniors will either get less services or pay more money. It is that simple.

One plan that the Republicans are considering is a voucher plan which would force senior citizens to purchase their own health insurance. While Republicans claim this is giving seniors more choice, many forget the reason Medicare was enacted was because health insurance was so expensive. Prior to Medicare, most seniors did not have any medical insurance.

What the Republicans are in effect saying is, "Seniors, here is a small amount of money. Go out and buy health insurance that you will not be able to afford."

Now that Republicans are in power, they want to enact the largest cuts in Medicare history. The Republicans talk about reform, but they start with the cuts first. This is backwards, and it is also wrong.

Republicans have forgotten the truly important contract, the contract with America's seniors.

WE NEED TO SAVE MEDICARE

(Mr. DICKEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DICKEY. Madam Speaker, I think I am going to introduce a new

word to this thing, counter-consultants' advice.

What we have here is we have consultants who are trying to take the Medicare issue and make it an issue of political proportions. Then the counter-consultants come back and say, "No, we can't do this. We have got to respond to this politically."

We just have a contrast here with the previous speaker and myself. I think we all have something in common. I think we all agree, we all agree we must save Medicare. We all agree that if we continue like we are doing, with the overutilization and the rising costs, that Medicare is going to go broke.

So what we need to do in this particular discussion is keep the consultants and the counter-consultants out of it.

Look at the facts. In 2002, Medicare will go bankrupt, and \$1 billion in Medicare part A will be spent over, above, what we have to spend.

We need to save Medicare, and we all agree on that.

DRAMATIC CUTS IN EDUCATION

(Mr. BECERRA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, here in today's newspaper, USA Today, "Nation rates average in school reform,". Only "average". Yet today we will debate a bill that cuts education dramatically. It cuts the money that we provide schools to help kids who need help, doing math and reading, because they are behind.

We are eliminating a program that actually helps us get schools reformed, eliminating the program that helps 44 million students. We are eliminating 27 percent of funding for vocational education.

We are eliminating \$137 million for Head Start Programs for our kids. We are cutting in half Healthy Start Program moneys. We are eliminating \$286 million for safe and drug-free schools, to make sure our kids have a safe environment to go to.

At the same time we are doing this—the Gingrich Republicans are axing education funding, not only are they doing that, but they are adamant about giving corporations and the wealthiest of Americans \$20,000 in tax cuts and at the same time they are adding \$8 billion to the defense budget, which the Department of Defense did not even request.

Wrong-headed is the word.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 789

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 789.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. (Mrs. WALDHOLTZ). Is there objection to the